

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



Treasure Valley Detachment, No 878

Volume 16, Issue 5

January, 2009

Semper Paratus Gazette



- **Commandant**
Rich Erickson, 208-562-0498
- **Senior Vice Commandant**
Michael Grigsby, 208-322-8309
- **Junior Vice Commandant**
Arnie Strawn, 208-454-8295
- **Judge Advocate**
Bob Smith, 208-939-2582
- **Adjutant/Paymaster**
Ralph Elston, 208,853,7344
- **Chaplin**
Bill Johnson, 208-384-1844
- **Newsletter Editor/Publisher**
Don Griffith, 208-898-0974
Email: griffithusmc@msn.com



Happy Holidays & New Years



It's hard to believe here we are in a new year...2009 December, 2008 and our Christmas party was a great turnout, thanks to everyone setting up the decorations and the chow line. I don't remember my chow line like this in Vietnam. Hmmm. It looks like Ken and Roy are first in line to sample the Christmas

dinner. I don't blame them with all the good tasty food presented us. I hope everyone had a safe and joyful New Year and lets not forget those less fortunate than us, or our serviceman and women serving our Country, "God Bless them all".

Now that 2008 is over we have a new year to look forward to with goals and commitments to accomplish for our fellow Veterans and the Community.
Alert.....

As you know, we have been earning much needed funding through the **Albertsons Community Partners Program**. We need all hands to help in continuing earning funds for this program.

All you need is your Preferred Savings Card number and our Organization ID. If you do not know your Preferred Savings Card Number, please call (877) 932-7948. Our Organization ID # is; 49000102899. You must re-link your card at website; www.albertsonscp.com by February 28, 2009 in order to keep earning funds for our organization. If you do not have a Preferred Savings Card, you can get one at any Albertsons store or online at Albertsons .com. Every time you shop at Albertsons and scan your linked Preferred Savings Card, we will earn back up to 4% of your shopping dollars.



Christmas wreath laid out at Arlington National Cemetery



Where's the wine? I'm freezing, Honey

**Coffee Klatch**

Here we are starting off the new year and hopefully everyone is still alive and kicking... don't forget our Coffee Klatch at Quinn's restaurant on Vista Avenue every Saturday morning. Doors are officially open at 0900, but as always we have a few died hard Marines who like to get there early...just in case the coffee runs out. (0800-1000)

**Treasure Valley Young Marines**

The Treasure Valley Young Marines' boot camp training and indoctrination begins on Friday,

March 20th~1800-2030

March 21st~0900-1800

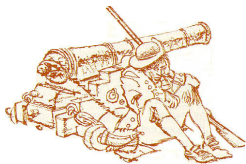
March 22nd~1200-1800

March 28th~0900-1800

March 29th~1200-1800

April 4th ~ 0900-1830

Graduation; Tuesday, April 7th at 1900 at Bldg 800, Gowen Field

**Scuttlebutt of the Day****2009 Retired Military Pay Days**

January 2, 2009	May 1, 2009	September 1, 2009
February 2, 2009	June 1, 2009	October 1, 2009
March 2, 2009	July 1, 2009	November 2, 2009
April 1, 2009	August 3, 2009	December 1, 2009

New Compensation & Benefit Handbook is now available at the Veterans Regional Office downtown Boise. Or go on line at the *Transition Assistance Program*

**A New Veterans Support Funds**

Has been established to support veterans programs throughout the State of Idaho. On your 2008 State Income Tax Form 40 on line 42, a new entry has been added...**Veterans Support Funds**. Enter the amount you would like to contribute on this line. The Idaho Tax Commission will deposit the monies in to a special fund. The Idaho Division of Veterans Services Administrator, David Brasuell, will then be able to draw from this fund to support Veterans programs. If these funds are not capable of sustaining \$25,000.00 this program may be dropped next year. Please get the word out to all Veterans in Idaho.



January's Birthdays

Linda Hansen
Maggie Modler
Susanne Peters
Darlene Toluse

From all of us, from the Marine Corps League,
Treasure Valley Detachment, #878 we wish you Ladies
a very, very **Happy Birthday** and many years to come.
Semper Fi.....



Dates of Interest for January

- 1st....1804~The tradition of the Marine Band serenading the Commandant was established .
- 4th....1991~Marines evacuated 260 US & foreign citizens from the American Embassy, Mogadishu, Somalia.
- 6th....1859~BrigGen Archibald Henderson died in office after 39 yrs as the 5th CMC
- 7th....1969~The MOH was posthumously awarded to 1stMarDiv Chaplin, Lt V.R.Capodanno, USN. KIA in Quang Tin Province, Vietnam Sep 4, 1967
- 12th....1991~The 5th MEB embarked & arrived in the Persian Gulf in support of Desert Shield
- 13th.... 1943~The 2ndMarDiv launched a westward coastal attack at Guadalcanal
- 15th...1943~Capt. Joe Foss bagged (3) Japanese planes for a record total of 26 kills
- 20th...1968~The 26th MarRegt killed 100 enemy as the second Battle for Khe Sanh, Vietnam began.
- 22nd...1969~Vietnam, Operation Dewey Canyon began..1,617 NVA/VCs killed
- 28th...1942~The 4thMarRegt was assigned to support Philippine Scouts on Bataan, Philippines
- 31st...1944~ The American flag was first raised over Japanese soil by B/1/25 in the Marshall Islands.

We're tired and wore out from the day long hike through the steaming jungles of the Philippines. The humidity is almost unbearable. Our clothing is soaked from head to foot. We've only eaten one meal, (C-rats) for the whole day. The jungle canopy is so thick we can't tell if it's daylight or late evening. I decided to climb a ridge to my left that was about 70-80 percent incline, to see if we are on the right track in our quest to find the battle area. I struggled to the top and finally came to an open in the thick jungle canopy.....Finally, daylight and open terrain. The grass was tall, but at least you could see where you were at. Exhausted, hungry and weak from lack of food and the humidity, I decided to take a break.... To my left far off in the distance on Mt Samat is a large cross looming over the mountainous terrain to my left.↓



If you look closely you can see the cross on top of Mt Samat. As I sat there on the open terrain in the tall grass refreshing my memory and reliving the battle, (as I researched the book) the defenders, Filipinos and Americans were fighting desperately trying to delay the final assault of the Japanese. Yes! This is the battle of Bataan, but this is 1976. I along with my body guards and some scouts and my company Executive Officer we re-traced the last battle and full retreat of the Americans and Filipinos on Bataan. We were located at the same area known as the final line, or *Rear Battle Line*. This line went from the west coast town of Bagac across the terrain pass Mt Samat to the far East coast town of Pilar. Commonly referred to as the Pilar and Bagac road.. The Japanese under the command of Gen Homma launched an artillery barrage and air strike that consisted of 150 sorties for over five hours. They dropped incendiary bombs until the area from Mt Samat to where I sat was engulfed in flames. ↓

Continued from the Battle of Bataan;

It's April 3, 1942 around 0900 the final battle for Bataan took its toll on the allied forces. Starving on one third rations, malaria and numerous other injuries and diseases and now the final blow by the Japanese was too much. The Philippine Army, (PA), 41st Division received the worse of the Japanese bombardment along with the Americans II Corps. Both the Americans II Corps along with the PA 41st Division retreated in panic further South toward Mariveles at the tip of Bataan overlooking Corregidor Island. Approximately 2000 men and 104 nurses eventually escaped to Corregidor, only later to walk the infamous **Death March**.

The pictures below are what we discovered later that day while searching for battle souvenirs. Along with the canteens and partially rusted doughboy helmet we discovered numerous remains of bone fragments from the defenders of Bataan. We later after taking pictures, re-buried the remains with some sense of dignity and respect. Today The cross standing on Mt Samat is a memorial to all those Americans and Filipinos who gave their lives for defending the Philippines and the way of life for the Filipinos.



Notice the riddled fragment canteens. The canteens had a date of 1918



Bone fragments found scattered throughout the area for several hundred square feet.



Skull fragments found from what is believed from one body. Could be an American or Filipino.....In any case we placed all the bone fragments in one container and buried them with dignity and a prayer.

Reference; Corregidor, The Rock force Assault.....by Gen E. M. Flanagan Jr